

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-06

SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OIC-02

PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 L-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6738

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 10417

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR AVERY AND HEWITT; NATIONAL COMMIS-
SION FOR MANPOWER POLICY FOR HALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 1976 MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE
MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MSAC)

REF: OECD PARIS 31030

1. SUMMARY. THE MSAC AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE SECRE-
TARY-GENERAL THAT THE MSAC AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEET IN
FIRST HALF OF 1976, PROVIDED THAT AGREEMENT IS REACHED
ON THE PURPOSE AND AGENDA FOR MINISTERIAL. MSAC DECI-
SION ON PURPOSE AND AGENDA IS EXPECTED DURING THE JULY,
1975 MSAC MEETING. JAMES METCALF, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
HEADED USDEL. END SUMMARY.

2. UD DEL TO MSAC MEETING, APRIL 15-17, STRONGLY SUP-
PORTED PROPOSAL FOR A MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE
MSAC IN 1976. MAJORITY OF OTHER DELEGATIONS ALSO SUP-
PORTED PROPOSAL. GERMANY OPPOSED, HOWEVER, AND FRANCE
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AND UK AFFIRMED THAT DECISION ON A MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE

DELAYED UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE PURPOSE AND AGENDA, WHICH WOULD ENABLE EACH COUNTRY TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL USEFULNESS OF THE MEETING. US DEL THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN 1976, BUT DELAY FINAL DECISION UNTIL JULY WHEN THE AGENDA WILL BE DISCUSSED. US DEL PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED, WITH GERMAN AMENDMENT THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DETERMINE WHETHER, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A LABOR MINISTERS MEETING, THE ISSUE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY SHOULD BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE 1976 COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. US ARGUED AGENDA SHOULD BE LIMITED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE EMPLOYMENT ISSUE, AND THAT MINISTERIAL SHOULD ATTEMPT TO PRODUCE A REVISION OF THE 1964 RECOMMENDATION ON AN ACTIVE MANPOWER POLICY. GERMANY, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA AND THE UK ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR AN AGENDA CONTAINING ONE MAJOR ISSUE. (CONCERN THAT THE AGENDA MIGHT LACK FOCUS APPEARED TO BE THE MAJOR REASON THE UK AND FRANCE WERE RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO THE MEETING, AND PARTLY EXPLAINED THE GERMAN POSITION ON THE MINISTERIAL.)

4. RE EMPLOYMENT ISSUE, US DEL STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED FOR GREATER INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN GENERAL ECONOMIC AND MANPOWER POLICY, AND GREATER CONSIDERATION OF STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS.

5. COMMITTEE AGREED TO US DEL SUGGESTION TO CREATE AN AD HOC WORKING PARTY TO PREPARE AGENDA. GROUP INCLUDES THE US, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, DENMARK, FRANCE, PORTUGAL AND SWITZERLAND. WP CHAIRMAN ON EMPLOYMENT SECURITY (IRELAND) AND MSAC CHAIRMAN (ITALY) ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF AD HOC GROUP. THIS GROUP WILL MEET JULY 7-8 (IMMEDIATE-

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LY PRIOR TO NEXT MSAC MEETING) TO REVIEW SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS AND PREPARE AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FULL COMMITTEE.

6. US DEL ASSURED SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT US WILL TRANSMIT ASAP TO THE SECRETARIAT A DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR AN AGENDA (WITH JUSTIFICATION), AND A SUGGESTED DRAFT REVISION OF THE 1964 RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ACTIVE MANPOWER POLICY. (FYI: US DEL MADE THIS PROPOSAL TO ASSURE THAT THE SECRETARIAT GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO US INTERESTS IN PREPARING AGENDA PROPOSALS AND ISSUE PAPERS FOR THE JULY MEETINGS. END FYI).

7. DURING LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN GASS, METCALF, AND LABATT, GASS FLOATED SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY DUNLOP SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. WE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE IDEA BUT INFORMED GASS A DECISION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ACCEPTING THE CHAIR COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL METCALF RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT DYMOND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MSA DIRECTORATE, WILL VISIT WASHINGTON MAY 16 FOR A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT AND, AS APPROPRIATE, OTHER US OFFICIALS, RE AGENDA AND JUSTIFICATION FOR A MINISTERIAL.

8. AS INDICATED PARA 6 REFTEL MISSION SEES POSSIBILITY THAT PROPERLY PREPARED AND FOCUSED MSAC MINISTERIAL COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE VALUE. KEY ELEMENT IS PREPARATION, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE AGENDA AND THOROUGH PREPARATION OF PROPOSED MINISTERIAL ACTIONS (E.G. REVISION OF ACTIVE MANPOWER POLICY RECOMMENDATION) TO ENSURE DESIRED RESULT.
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